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February 28, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to offer my full support for Washington County's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant funding application for the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection Project. This project will improve operational capacity and mobility needs, as well as address critical safety concerns along this designated freight corridor in our rural, Appalachian region. By providing funding to complete Phase 2 of I-81, it also completes a long-planned county road that connects Interstate 81 with MD 63 via Halfway Boulevard, unlocking business development opportunities and providing alternative routes for freight traffic to both I-81 and I-70. This project will ensure Washington County is able to attract new businesses and retain existing ones.

Maryland's I-81 corridor no longer meets system performance requirements, resulting in a disruptive bottleneck negatively affecting the freight movement in a corridor estimated to carry 12 percent of the Country's Gross Domestic Product per year. The Maryland portion of I-81 alone carries more than 19,400 trucks per day, which falls within the top one percent of truck volume by lane mile in the nation. Receiving this grant funding will help maintain the I-81 corridor's position as a national asset for freight movement for the next several decades. In addition to supporting the thousands of jobs already in the corridor, it will enable the development of new business parks and provide greater access to truck parking, a much-needed resource along the I-81 and I-70 corridors.

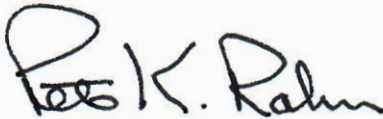
I urge you to favorably consider this regionally and nationally significant project and invest in this critical effort to advance freight connections in rural Maryland. Approving this grant will allow the I-81/Halfway Boulevard Freight Connection project to begin within 11 months and ensure substantial completion two and one-half years after the notice to proceed.

The Honorable Elaine Chao
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The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) is prepared to commit its required grant funding match. This application is reflective of a strong partnership among Washington County, the MDOT SHA, and the private sector to leverage available resources to implement a priority project.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact us should you or your staff have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete K. Rahn". The signature is stylized with a large initial "P" and a cursive "K".

Pete K. Rahn
Secretary

cc: Mr. Scott Hobbs, Director, Division of Engineering, Washington County
Mr. James F. Ports, Jr., Deputy Secretary of Operations, MDOT TSO
Mr. Gregory Slater, Administrator, MDOT SHA

The Honorable Elaine Chao
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bcc: Ms. Heather Murphy, Director, Office of Planning and Capital Programming, MDOT

Project Title Halfway Boulevard Extended

Project ID RDI069

Full-time Employees 0

Operating Costs \$2,000

Project Description The project involves the construction of a new four-lane open section roadway, including a large culvert, connecting existing Halfway Boulevard to MD Route 63. Intersection improvements at Halfway Boulevard extended and MD Route 63 include a traffic signal.

Project Assumptions ARC grants totaling \$3,800,000 are being secured for this project. This project is receiving developer contributions for improvements.

Project Justification Regional traffic is anticipated to significantly increase, requiring more transportation connectivity in this area. The project provides an alternate access route to MD Route 63, Interstate 70 and Interstate 81 for heavy truck traffic from the industrial park and businesses on Halfway Boulevard. The project area has been identified as an economic development opportunity for the County.

	Total	Prior Appr.	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Future
<u>Project Costs:</u>									
Construction	5,622,000	2,223,000	749,000	2,000,000	650,000	0	0	0	0
Engineering and Design	100,000	100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inspection	250,000	0	0	0	250,000	0	0	0	0
Total Cost	5,972,000	2,323,000	749,000	2,000,000	900,000	0	0	0	0
<u>Funding Sources:</u>									
Tax-Supported Bond	1,872,000	523,000	449,000	0	900,000	0	0	0	0
APFO Fees - Roads	300,000	0	300,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Grant	3,800,000	1,800,000	0	2,000,000	0	0	0	0	0
Total Funding	5,972,000	2,323,000	749,000	2,000,000	900,000	0	0	0	0

Jeffrey A. Cline, *President*
Terry L. Baker, *Vice President*
Krista L. Hart, *Clerk*



Wayne K. Keefer
Cort F. Meinelschmidt
Randall E. Wagner

100 West Washington Street, Suite 1101 | Hagerstown, MD 21740-4735 | P: 240.313.2200 | F: 240.313.2201
WWW.WASHCO-MD.NET

January 29, 2019

Mr. Corey Stottlemeyer
Senior Policy Analyst
Office of Planning & Capital Programming
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076

Dear Mr. Stottlemeyer:

I am writing in response to your letter requesting local funding support for the I-81 Phase 2 grant application submission for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. County staff presented your request to the Board of County Commissioners during their public meeting on January 29, 2019.

Improvements to Interstate 81 remains a high priority of the County, recognizing the benefit to local businesses and citizens, along with the potential for future economic development in the area. Furthermore, the County understands that a commitment of local funding will enhance our grant application.

The Board of County Commissioner discussed this request and voted to provide \$1,000,000 of local funding support to match a successful INFRA grant award for this project. The County appreciates the State's continued support and partnership in these efforts and is hopeful that this commitment will result in a successful grant application.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: 
Jeffrey A. Cline, President

Cc: Board of County Commissioners
Robert J. Slocum, County Administrator, Washington County
Susan Buchanan, Director, Office of Grant Management, Washington County
Scott Hobbs, Director, Division of Engineering, Washington County



APPALACHIAN
REGIONAL
COMMISSION

*A Proud Past,
A New Vision*

PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT

Project Title/No.: Halfway Boulevard Extension, Phase II (MD-19114-2018-I-201b)

Grantee: Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, MD

Local Contact: Mr. Scott Hobbs
240-313-2407

Congressional District: 6

Funding:

ARC:	\$2,000,000
Other Federal:	-0-
State:	-0-
Local:	-0-
Total	\$2,000,000

FEB 21 2018

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) today approved \$2,000,000 for Board of County Commissioners of Washington County to construct Halfway Boulevard Extension, Phase II, in Washington County, MD. ARC funds will be used to construct approximately 0.19 miles of four lane open section local access road extending the existing Halfway Boulevard Phase I termination point west towards Maryland Route 63. The proposed project will spur commercial development on land surrounding the new road and alleviate growing traffic congestion in the area while improving connectivity between I-70, I-81 and existing nearby commercial/industrial areas. The new roadway is essential for a plan to develop surrounding land into a business park with over 1.4 million square feet of commercial space. It is estimated that this project will support the creation of 394 new jobs.

The Maryland State Highway Administration (MSHA) will administer the project and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will serve as the basic federal agency for the project.



Dear Secretary Chao:

We are writing you to express our support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration for funding through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development grant program for the I-81 Phase 2 Corridor Widening project, *Making Way for Economic Growth & Safety*. As a local development and trucking company, we understand the importance of sound infrastructure and public/private partnerships.

Bowman Group contains businesses which began in Washington County in 1959. Each of the industries contained within Bowman Group is widely affected by the I-81 Corridor and we have concerns that without the necessary widening, it could become detrimental to our business. Two businesses affected at large include a top 200 carrier, D.M. Bowman Inc. Trucking, and the largest real estate development company in Washington County, Bowman Development.

D.M. Bowman Inc. trucking company depends heavily on the Interstate to provide safe and efficient travel. The current I-81 Corridor in Maryland no longer meets system performance requirements which creates disruptive bottlenecks and negatively affects the movement of freight. The suggested improvements will also improve safety by the reconstruction of exit ramps to create safer merging and exiting. This project would allow MDOT SHA to proceed steadily with the I-81 Corridor Widening project and to allow one of the country's busiest and most congested freight corridors to keep pace with future traffic growth.

As the largest real estate developer in Washington County, Bowman Development is greatly affected by the I-81 widening project. Along with our other numerous investments, we are currently investing \$17M into a 504,200 SF warehouse within a mile of I-81 with a completion date of December 1st 2018. The success of this project will depend on the continued efficient and safe traffic flow on I-81.

While completing our newest warehouse, we are simultaneously investing \$750,000 into Halfway Boulevard Extended as part of a private/public partnership for future development. If awarded the grant, the scope of Phase 2 will increase the widening from the end of Phase 1 in West Virginia to the Halfway interchange, including an extension of Halfway Blvd to RT 63. The expansion in this area will spur commercial development surrounding the road and alleviate traffic issues in the area. This project will also improve connectivity between Interstates 70 and 81 and existing nearby commercial/industrial areas. We have submitted a concept for this site that could potentially accommodate 1.4 million square feet of commercial/industrial buildings.

We appreciate your consideration for the I-81 Phase 2 Corridor Widening Project and MDOT SHA's request for BUILD grant funding. We hope you see the impact that our roadways have not only on our business but commercial real estate and trucking as a whole. If you have any questions in regards to our support for this project, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Bowman', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Don Bowman